Year	No. of employees	No of officers	Total
2003	8965	3040	12005
2008	7433	3932	11365

(b) The number of employees and officers, opting for retirement under VRS etc. during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of employees	No of officers	Total
2005-06	3	5	8
2006-07	7	98	105
2007-08	5	3	8

(c) to (e) Pending completion of a manpower study for firming up of actual requirements, 121 officers were recruited during the year 2006-07; 100 officers during 2007-08; and 450 clerical staff during the current year on *ad-hoc* basis. An indent for recruiting an additional 1000 clerks has been placed on Central Recruitment and Promotion Department, State Bank of India to meet the requirements arising due to Business Process Re-engineering initiatives, branch expansion plans, etc.

Black Money

356. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the data of Indians who have parked their black money in Liechtenstein's LGT Bank from the German Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to obtain the information from the German Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the German Government Seeking information relating to Indian account holders, if any, in Liechtenstein's LGT Bank.

Rise in inflation

357. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inflation reached a 16 year high of 12.63 per cent in the week end August of this year;

(b) whether a comprehensive scheme has been launched to curb and cut down it; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The year-on-year inflation was 12.63 per cent on August 9, 2008 and it moderated to 11.44 per cent (provisional) on October 4, 2008. Annual rates of inflation since 1991-92 are indicated in the table below:

Table: Year-on-year WPI Inflation (%)

Year	Inflation (%)	Year	Inflation (%)
1991-92	13.74	2000-01	7.16
1992-93	10.06	2001-02	3.60
1993-94	8.35	2002-03	3.41
1994-95	12.60	2003-04	5.46
1995-96	7.99	2004-05	6.48
1996-97	4.61	2005-06	4.43
1997-98	4.40	2006-07	5.42
1998-99	5.95	2007-08	4.66
1999-00	3.27		

(b) and (c) Government is monitoring the price situation on a regular basis and containment of inflation remains high on its agenda. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system. The Monetary policy of Reserve Bank of India has attempted to contain inflationary expectations arising out of uncertainties in domestic and international environment.

Outstanding loans, against big Companies

†358. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large amount of loans given by private sector banks are outstanding against some big companies over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken for the recovery of outstanding amount of loan from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As on 31.03.2008, the gross non-performing assets of private sector banks stood at Rs. 12,985 crore, which accounted for 2.47% of their gross advances. As per

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.